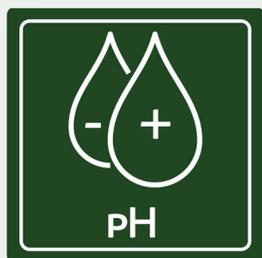


THE TESTS OF WATER QUALITY

Water is essential to every ecosystem and every living thing. In aquatic ecosystems, plants and animals have adapted to specific water conditions, and monitoring those conditions helps us protect wildlife habitat and the ecosystem services we depend on. Read on to learn about common water quality indicators, why they matter, and how we measure them.

TYPES OF WATER QUALITY TESTS



WHAT DOES THE TEST MEASURE?

The pH water quality test measures the acidity and alkalinity of the water.

.....

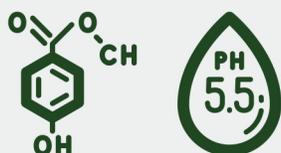
SOURCES OF POLLUTION



Acid rain, agricultural runoff
Mining, wastewater discharge

.....

EFFECT ON WATER QUALITY



Alters chemical composition of water



WHAT DOES THE TEST MEASURE?

The turbidity water quality test measures the clarity of a liquid.

.....

SOURCES OF POLLUTION



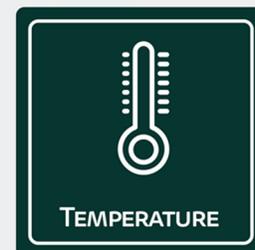
Erosion

.....

EFFECT ON WATER QUALITY



Water clarity



WHAT DOES THE TEST MEASURE?

Temperature influences the biological activity in bodies of water.

.....

SOURCES OF POLLUTION



Thermal pollution,
Deforestation impoundments

.....

EFFECT ON WATER QUALITY



Water density (ice), Dissolved oxygen, Habitat for species



SALINITY

WHAT DOES THE TEST MEASURE?

Saline waters are bodies of water that contain dissolved salt.



SOURCES OF POLLUTION



Agriculture,
Erosion, Excessive pumping



EFFECT ON WATER QUALITY



Makes water undrinkable,
Makes ecosystem an unfit habitat
for plants and animals



DISSOLVED OXYGEN

WHAT DOES THE TEST MEASURE?

Dissolved oxygen (DO) measures how much oxygen is dissolved in water.



SOURCES OF POLLUTION



Clearing land,
Destruction of riparian areas



EFFECT ON WATER QUALITY



Influences abilities for
fish to survive



NITROGEN/PHOSPHORUS

WHAT DOES THE TEST MEASURE?

Nitrogen and phosphorus are essential nutrients to plants and animals, but an overabundance can cause negative impacts to aquatic ecosystems.



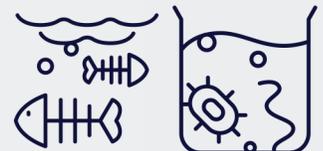
SOURCES OF POLLUTION



Agriculture,
Fertilizer runoff



EFFECT ON WATER QUALITY



Eutrophication